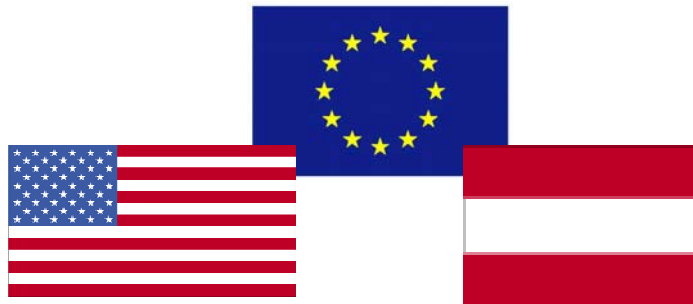


# EU SPOTLIGHT

No. 5, April 2006



Österreich 2006 • Präsidentschaft der Europäischen Union  
Austria 2006 • Presidency of the European Union  
Autriche 2006 • Présidence de l'Union européenne



- [U.S. Government Items](#)
- [CRS Reports for Congress](#)
- [Media and Think Tank Items](#)
- **Austrian Government Items**
  - [Event](#)
  - [Press Releases and Speeches](#)
- [Useful Links](#)
  - [Government pages](#)
  - [Selected U.S. media with EU section](#)
  - [Selected Austrian media with EU section](#)
  - [Additional sites](#)

## U.S. GOVERNMENT ITEMS

### [Review of European Security Issues](#)

Washington File, April 7, 2006

Islamist 'insurgency' threatens Europe, U.S.; tolerance among Europe's Muslims; Rice visits Germany, France, U.K.; bioterror conference for Europe, Eurasia; Kosovo talks and Serb boycott; Bosnian constitution; disaster planning in Southeast Europe

### ["Battle for Ideas" Critical in Fighting Terrorism, Says State's Fried](#)

Diplomats also say global terrorism requires counterinsurgency strategy

Washington File, April 6, 2006

Washington -- Global terrorism resembles an insurgency against existing governments and requires an international counterinsurgency strategy that includes close U.S.-European cooperation to win the "battle of ideas," senior U.S. diplomats told Congress April 5. The United States cooperates closely with Europe on counterterrorism measures, "but we must also intensify our efforts to counter the extremist ideas that drive Islamist terrorism," said Daniel Fried, assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs. ...

[ISLAMIST EXTREMISM IN EUROPE](#), Hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on European Affairs, April 5, 2006

[TESTIMONY OF DANIEL FRIED](#) (pdf), Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, U.S. Department of State

[TESTIMONY BY AMBASSADOR HENRY A. CRUMPTON](#) (pdf), Coordinator for Counterterrorism, U.S. Department of State

[TESTIMONY OF TOM C. KOROLOGOS](#) (pdf), U.S. Ambassador to Belgium

[STATEMENT BY DR. ROBIN NIBLETT](#) (pdf), Executive Vice President, & Director, Europe Program, The Center for Strategic and International Studies

[TESTIMONY OF MARY HABECK](#) (pdf), Associate Professor of Strategic Studies, The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced, International Studies, The Johns Hopkins University

[TESTIMONY BY DANIEL BENJAMIN](#) (pdf), Senior Fellow, International Security Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies

### [The Transatlantic Relationship - Moving our Partnership Forward](#)

Remarks by U.S. Ambassador to Austria Susan McCaw

Vienna, April 6, 2006

... But first, let me talk about the opportunities and challenges facing the US and Europe. There's a lot of good news to report, and I'd like to start with that.

Just a few years ago, we were having a tough go of it: Both the US and Europe were inclined to focus on the issues that divided us - and chief among those was, of course, the decision to remove Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq. I think we Americans were so convinced that Saddam was such a menace to his own country, and to peace and stability in the Middle East, we assumed it was clear to everyone. We didn't fully appreciate the need to ensure that our concern was shared widely enough.

As a consequence, while I believe it's fair to say that most people agree the world is better off with Saddam out of power and facing legal action, many Europeans didn't agree with the timing and the tactics the United States promoted to accomplish that.

The good news is, both the US and Europe have agreed that, whatever our feelings are about the war, the important issue now is the future of the nation and the people of Iraq. German Chancellor Merkel has reminded us all that a democratic Iraq is in everyone's interest. French Prime Minister de Villepin says the international community "must go forward together" to achieve success in Iraq. ...



## [USTDA Grants Support Romania's EU Accession Efforts](#)

Press Release, U.S. Trade and Development Agency

April 3, 2006

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA – (April 3, 2006) The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) reaffirmed its support for Romania's efforts to join the European Union (EU) today with the award of three grants. The grants will facilitate efforts by U.S. industry to provide technology and expertise to Romania as it continues the EU accession process.

The grants will fund assistance to Romania in meeting various requirements associated with EU membership. They include: a \$349,480 grant to ROMAG-TERMO for a feasibility study on methods of reducing sulfur-dioxide emissions at the Drobeta combined heat and power plant; a \$266,432 grant to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology for technical assistance in establishing a coherent strategy to handle electronic service needs of the Romanian government; and a \$187,455 grant to the Ministry of Justice to provide technical assistance in establishing an audio video court recording system for the Romanian court system. ...

## [Remarks at BBC Today-Chatham House Lecture](#)

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

Ewood Park, Blackburn, United Kingdom, March 31, 2006



... I know that there is a lot concern in Britain as well as in Europe and in other parts of the world, that the United States is not adequately guaranteeing both our need for security and our respect for the law. We in America welcome the free exchange of opinions with our allies about this issue, especially here in place like Britain. But I also want to say that no one should ever doubt America's commitment to justice and the rule of law. President Bush has stated unequivocally, as have I that the United States is a nation of laws and we do not tolerate any American, at home or abroad, engaging in acts of torture. We also have no desire to be the world's jailer. We want the terrorists that we captured to stand trial for their crimes. But we also recognize that we are fighting a new kind of war, and that our citizens will judge us harshly if we release a captured terrorist before we are absolutely certain that he does not possess information that could prevent a future attack, or even worse, if we meet that terrorist again on the battlefield. Now, these difficult issues, still for us affirm the value of liberal democracy. But from our present and past experience, we know that liberal democracy is no panacea. It is a living regime, a never-ending conversation, a perpetual struggle to balance democratic demands within the limitations of Liberalism. This is genuine liberal democracy and this is its genius, its flexibility and its dynamism, how it helps diverse societies and diverse peoples reconcile their differences peacefully. Even for mature liberal democracies like ours, with centuries of experience, these balancing acts are often painstaking and time-consuming and frustrating. So when we talk about young democracies, like those emerging in the Broader Middle East today, we must do so with great humility and with great patience and with great sympathy for their historic undertaking. ....

## [United States Files WTO Case Against China Over Treatment of U.S. Auto Parts](#)

Press Release, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

March 30, 2006

WASHINGTON – U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman announced that the United States requested WTO dispute settlement consultations with China today due to its unfair treatment of U.S. auto parts.

"As a mature trading partner, China should be held accountable for its actions and be required to live up to its responsibilities," Portman said.

"China's regulations on imported auto parts appear to violate its WTO obligations. While the United States has raised this issue repeatedly and sought repeal of these measures, the problem has not yet been resolved," Portman added. "We hope the filing of our request for consultations will lead to a speedy resolution of this issue."

The U.S. is joined in this WTO action by the European Union. The United States and the EU will continue their close coordination in seeking to resolve this dispute with China. ...

## Remarks En Route To Berlin, Germany

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

En Route Berlin, Germany, March 29, 2006

...QUESTION: Could you -- I don't know if this is going to come up in your discussions with Chancellor Merkel and with French President Chirac, but now that the Israeli elections are over and now that Hamas has now assumed the leadership of the Palestinian legislature, where do things stand in terms of aid to the Palestinians? What sorts of decisions do you expect to make with the other leaders and in the United States Government on this issue?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, our review of Palestinian assistance programs is drawing to a close. I mean, we've done the work, we've got a few more consultations to do, but it's drawing to a close. And I would expect to be able to look at some decisions pretty soon. I'm going to be away for a little while so that may well delay it.

But the principle is very clear: We're not going to fund a Hamas-led government, provide funding to a Hamas-led government, but we are going to see what we can do to increase humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people and what mechanisms we can use to do that to make certain that the money is not indeed supporting the Hamas-led government.

I know that others are making similar reviews and similar decisions. We probably will have a chance to talk. A lot of the assistance, of course, for Britain and for France and for Germany comes through the European Union and we'll continue to have discussions with them as well. But we've been very much on the same page that what Hamas needs to do is to accept the Quartet requirements so that it can govern effectively and so that the world can support it. So I think that's where we are. ...

## Transatlantic Security: Addressing Global Challenges Together

Kurt Volker, Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs

University of San Francisco, Center for Public Service and the Common Good

San Francisco, CA, March 28, 2006

...I am constantly confronted with a distorted and highly critical image of America that bears no resemblance to the country I know – an image of America as war-mongering, aggressive, callous, selfish, an abuser of human rights, and an arrogant nation uninterested in other countries and other people. Look around. This is not who we are as a people. It is not what we are together as a country. ...

As I see it, the real America is people exercising their democratic rights freely. I'm sure there are a wide range of views held by people in this room about U.S. policy, both at home and abroad. But the strength of America is that we are free, and open, and we can express our views peacefully, and choose our leaders democratically through free elections.

Our democracy has made us strong, and prosperous, and innovative. And we want to help others throughout the world to enjoy the same freedoms we enjoy at home. On this, there are no political divisions. We may differ on specific actions, but not on our values and our higher aims. It is important that people abroad understand this: that America is a nation based on values – on freedom, democracy, justice, human rights, the rule of law. ...

## United States, European Union To Impose Sanctions on Belarus

**White House calls on Belarus to release detained protesters**

Washington File, March 24, 2006

Washington -- The Bush administration condemned the forcible seizure and detention of Belarusian protesters, and is joining the European Union in imposing sanctions directed against President Alexander Lukashenko and others.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said March 24 that the United States “strongly condemn[s]” the actions taken by Belarusian security services against the protesters earlier in the day.

“They forcibly seized and detained citizens of Belarus who were peacefully demonstrating against the fraudulent March 19 election results,” he said, and called on Belarusian authorities to “release without delay” the hundreds of protesters who were seized, as well as others taken into custody in recent days and weeks “simply for expressing their political views.”

Welcoming the European Union’s decision to “take restrictive measures” against Lukashenko and others who violated international electoral standards, McClellan said the United States also is planning to impose sanctions. ...

**PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE ON BELARUS, The White House, March 24, 2006**

**BELARUS: DETENTIONS AND VIOLENCE AGAINST PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATORS IN BELARUS**, Press Statement, U.S. Department of State, March 24, 2006  
**REPRESSION OF DEMONSTRATORS IN BELARUS**, Press Statement, U.S. Department of State, March 25, 2006

**WTO Talks Losing Momentum, U.S. Trade Representative Says**

**Portman defends free-trade pacts as completing, not undercutting, negotiations**

Washington File, March 24, 2006

Washington -- United States Trade Representative (USTR) Rob Portman has expressed concern that hope for forward movement in World Trade Organization (WTO) talks is somewhat fading. "Frankly, some of that energy is dissipating a little bit," he told an agribusiness group in Washington March 22.

This is happening, he explained, because other countries have not matched ambitious U.S. proposals on trade-distorting subsidies and agricultural tariffs.

In October 2005, the United States submitted a proposal for drastically reducing agricultural tariffs and the most trade-distorting domestic supports. This initiative has achieved little; however, the European Union made a counterproposal that analyses showed would produce little or no additional market access. ...

**REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR ROB PORTMAN** (pdf), United States Trade Representative, before the Agribusiness Group of Washington, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Washington, D.C., March 22, 2006

**U.S., Europe Call for Release of Jailed Belarus Protesters**

**Opposition supporters arrested after bringing demonstrators food, blankets**

Washington File, March 23, 2006

Washington -- The United States is calling on Belarus immediately to release protesters and opposition supporters detained or arrested in connection with the country's "severely flawed"

March 19 election, a U.S. diplomat told Europe's leading human-rights group.

Hundreds of around-the-clock protesters spent their fifth day demonstrating in October Square in the Belarus capital city of Minsk. The sustained public demonstration is unprecedented in Belarus, a former Soviet republic that has used repressive measures to silence critics of the government....



**U.S. Seeks Expanded Sanctions Against Belarusian Authorities**

**"Lukashenko's days are numbered," says State Department's Kramer**

Washington File, March 22, 2006

Washington -- The United States is working with European allies to seek increased financial penalties and travel restrictions for individuals in the Belarus government responsible for fraud and human-rights violations following widely criticized elections March 19....

"Lukashenko's days are numbered," David Kramer, deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs, said March 21 in Washington. He said the United States will continue to lend moral and financial support to those who seek to reform the authoritarian regime in Minsk. ...

"We're working intensively with our European allies and partners to take a united approach" to reform the government of Belarus, Kramer said. ...

**BALLOTS ON THE FRONTIERS OF FREEDOM: ELECTIONS IN BELARUS AND UKRAINE**, Remarks by David Kramer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, D.C., March 21, 2006



## **United States and European Union Sign Enlargement Compensation Agreement**

### **Press Release, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative**

March 22, 2006

Geneva - United States and the European Union (EU) signed a bilateral trade agreement today relating to the EU's expansion in May 2004 from 15 to 25 members.

The agreement reduces several agricultural and industrial tariffs to offset tariff increases that the EU implemented as a result of EU enlargement. It also gives the United States access to expanded tariff-rate quotas for a broad range of agricultural products. The EU concessions will go into effect once they are published in the EU's Official Journal. Under the agreement, implementation of these concessions is to go into effect no later than July 1, 2006.

"This is a good package that helps to enhance U.S. access to the EU's agriculture market for pork, corn gluten meal, processed products, and to key growth markets for our exports to the EU, such as fish," said US Trade Representative Rob Portman. "The agreement upholds our rights under WTO rules. We worked closely with U.S. industries affected by the enlargement of the EU to secure the appropriate compensation." ...

## **U.S. "Does Not Accept the Results" of Flawed Belarus Election**

### **Supports call by Belarusian opposition leaders for new election**

Washington File, March 20, 2006

Washington -- The United States does not accept the claims of Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko that he won the March 19 presidential election, which international election observers have deemed "severely flawed."

"The United States does not accept the results of the election," said White House press secretary Scott McClellan in response to a reporter's question en route to Cleveland, where President Bush was giving a speech.

"The election campaign was conducted in a climate of fear. It included arrests and beatings and fraud," said McClellan....

**FRAUDULENT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN BELARUS**, Press Statement, U.S.

Department of State, March 20, 2006

**STATEMENT ON BELARUS IN RESPONSE TO THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY**

**ASSEMBLY** (pdf), Ambassador Julie Finley, United States Mission to the OSCE, March 21, 2006

**REPORT: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, REPUBLIC OF BELARUS – 19 MARCH 2006**, International Election Observation Mission, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, March 20, 2006

## **House Pushes for Delay of Airline Foreign Ownership Rule**

### **Supplemental bill also would ban port management by a Dubai firm**

Washington File, March 17, 2006

Washington -- A measure that would delay the implementation of a rule change on foreign ownership of U.S. airlines has been approved by the U.S. House of Representatives. It could impair an already agreed-to open skies agreement between the United States and the European Union if it survives in a final bill.

The airline provision was approved as part of the \$92 billion supplemental spending bill that would fund military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, hurricane relief in the U.S. Gulf region and some foreign aid.

The Senate Appropriations Committee is expected to act on its spending legislation in April. It is unknown whether a Senate version will contain a similar provision. If the Senate and House versions of the spending plan differ, they must be reconciled and both chambers must approve a final bill before the president can sign it into law. ...

**[\[back to top\]](#)**

# CRS REPORTS FOR CONGRESS

## Congressional Research Service/ Library of Congress

### [The European Parliament](#) (pdf)

Updated

Updated March 30, 2006

The 732-member, directly-elected European Parliament (EP) is a key institution of the 25-member European Union (EU). Once limited to being a consultative assembly, the EP has accumulated more power over time. Currently, it plays a role in the EU's legislative and budgeting processes, and exercises general supervision over other EU bodies. The EP continues to face several challenges, however, especially in relation to its democratic legitimacy and operational costs. The most recent EP elections were held in June 2004.

### [U.S.-European Union Trade Relations: Issues and Policy](#)

Updated

#### [Challenges](#) (pdf)

Updated March 17, 2006

Major U.S.-EU trade challenges can be grouped into five categories: (1) complying with WTO rulings; (2) resolving longstanding trade disputes involving aerospace production subsidies and beef hormones; (3) dealing with different public concerns over new technologies and new industries; (4) fostering cooperative competition policies; and (5) strengthening the multilateral trading system.

### [European Union Biofuels Policy and Agriculture: An Overview](#) (pdf)

Updated

March 16, 2006

Several different economic and environmental forces have converged in recent years to generate growing interest in alternate sources of energy, including biofuels, within the European Union (EU). The European Commission (EC) is using both legislation and formal directives to promote biofuel production and use within the EU. However, EU biofuel production is impeded by its high production costs relative to fossil fuels. To date, the most important biofuel produced in the EU has been biodiesel with an 80% share of biofuel production in 2004. Bioethanol has accounted for the remainder. The major feedstock for EU biodiesel production is rapeseed oil, while bioethanol is generally produced using a combination of sugar beets and wheat.

U.S. policymakers are closely watching EU biofuel developments, particularly for any successful policy choices that might work in the United States. In addition, both the production and use of biofuels have important long-run implications for EU agricultural production and trade. This report briefly introduces some of the more salient agricultural policies and issues related to EU biofuel production and use.

### [Agricultural Biotechnology: The U.S.-EU Dispute](#) (pdf)

Updated

Updated March 10, 2006

In May 2003, the United States, Canada, and Argentina challenged in World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement the European Union's (EU's) de facto moratorium on biotechnology product approvals in place since 1998. Although the EU effectively lifted the moratorium in May 2004 by approving a genetically engineered (GE) corn variety, the three complainants pursued the case, in part because a number of EU member states continue to block approved biotech products.... On February 7, 2006, the WTO dispute panel, in its interim confidential report, ruled that a moratorium had existed, that bans on EU-approved GE crops in six EU member countries violated WTO rules, and that the EU failed to ensure that its approval procedures were conducted without "undue delay." Other claims by the United States were rejected.

### [European Union's Arms Embargo on China: Implications and Options for U.S. Policy](#) (pdf)

Updated

Updated January 26, 2006

Overall, there are two sets of questions for Congress in examining U.S. policy toward the fate of the EU's arms embargo on China. What are the implications for U.S. interests in trans-Atlantic relations and China? If U.S. interests are adversely affected, what are some options for Congress to discourage the EU from lifting its arms embargo on China and, if it is lifted, to protect U.S. national security interests in both Asia and Europe? Issues raised by these questions are the subject of this CRS Report.

### [U.S.-EU Cooperation Against Terrorism](#) (pdf)

Updated January 24, 2006

The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks gave new momentum to European Union (EU) initiatives to improve law enforcement cooperation against terrorism both among its 25 member states and with the United States. Washington has largely welcomed these efforts, recognizing that they may help root out terrorist cells and prevent future attacks. However, the United States and the EU continue to face several challenges as they seek to promote closer cooperation in the police, judicial, and border control fields. This report will be updated as needed.

### [The United States and Europe: Possible Options for U.S. Policy](#) (pdf)

Updated January 23, 2006

This report assesses the present state of the U.S.-European relationship and the reasons for current frictions. To stimulate debate and for the purposes of analysis, it also offers a spectrum of possible options for U.S. policymakers in considering the future shape of the political and strategic dimensions of the transatlantic partnership.

### [EU-U.S. Economic Ties: Framework, Scope, and Magnitude](#) (pdf)

Updated January 17, 2006

U.S. and EU policymakers will continually face the task of how to manage the increasingly complex bilateral economic relationship in ways that maximize benefits and keep frictions to a minimum. For Members of Congress it means weighing the benefits of greater economic integration against the costs to constituents in the context of overall U.S. national interests.

### [NATO and the European Union](#) (pdf)

Updated January 3, 2006

This report addresses several questions central to the debate over European security and the future of the broader transatlantic relationship.

### [The United States and Europe: Current Issues](#) (pdf)

Updated December 28, 2005

The United States and Europe share a long and intertwined history. Despite the end of the Cold War, both sides of the Atlantic continue to face a common set of international concerns, have few other comparable partners, and share a huge economic relationship. Nevertheless, numerous foreign policy and trade conflicts have seriously challenged U.S.-European relations in recent years. This report examines the current state of the transatlantic relationship and key issues in Europe and beyond that have implications for U.S. interests.

### [European Union Enlargement](#) (pdf)

Updated December 27, 2005

On May 1, 2004, 10 states joined the European Union (EU), enlarging the Union to 25 members. The EU views the enlargement process as a historic opportunity to promote stability and prosperity in Europe. In addition to the 10 new members (Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia), Bulgaria and Romania hope to accede to the EU in 2007. Turkey and Croatia began accession negotiations in October 2005. Macedonia was named as a candidate for EU membership in December 2005.

### [The European Union in 2006 and Beyond](#) (pdf)

Updated December 27, 2005

The European Union (EU) has experienced significant changes over the last few years. The EU has enlarged from 15 to 25 members and has been working to implement a new constitutional treaty to institute internal reforms and further political integration. The EU has also taken steps toward developing a common foreign policy and defense arm. This report describes the current status of the EU's constitutional treaty, EU enlargement, the EU's evolving foreign and defense policies, and possible implications for U.S.-EU relations.



## [The European Union: Questions and Answers](#) (pdf)

Updated December 27, 2005

This report provides answers to key questions related to the European Union (EU). It describes the EU's evolution, its governing institutions, trade policy, and efforts to forge common foreign and defense policies. The report also addresses the EU-U.S. and EU-NATO relationships.

## [The European Union's Constitution](#) (pdf)

Updated December 27, 2005

In June 2004, the European Union (EU) concluded work on a constitutional treaty that contains changes to the EU's governing institutions and decision-making processes. Commonly referred to as the "constitution," this new treaty aims to institute internal reforms to enable a larger EU to operate effectively and prevent gridlock, but it must be ratified by all member states to enter into force. The future of the EU's constitution, however, has been thrown in doubt after French and Dutch voters rejected it in separate referenda in May and June 2005. This report provides background information on the constitution, its key provisions, the current crisis, and possible implications for U.S.-EU relations.

[\[back to top\]](#)

## **MEDIA and THINK TANK ITEMS**

(If you are interested in receiving any of the articles listed below, please contact [arc@usembassy.at](mailto:arc@usembassy.at))

### **Identity, Immigration, and Liberal Democracy**

By Francis Fukuyama, *Journal of Democracy*, April 2006

Most European countries have right-wing populist parties opposed to immigration and increasingly mobilized around the issue of Muslim minorities; these include the National Front in France, the Vlaams Belag (formerly the Vlaams Blok) in Belgium, the People's parties in Denmark and Switzerland, and the Freedom Party in Austria. Nonetheless, mainstream European academics, journalists, and politicians have been very reluctant to address the problem of Muslim integration openly until very recently, though there is by now a growing—and in some cases very alarmist—literature on the emergence of “Eurabia.” Francis Fukuyama, Bernard L. Schwartz Professor of International Political Economy at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, delivered the 2005 Seymour Martin Lipset Lecture on Democracy in the World.

[FULL TEXT](#) (pdf)

### **Let Them Eat Precaution – What the WTO Decision on GMOs Really Means**

By Jon Entine, *Ethical Corporation*, April 2006

Call it “the spin wars”. In a leaked interim report in February, the World Trade Organisation sided with Canada, Argentina, and the US, ruling that the European-wide ban on bio engineered crops has more to do with protectionism than precaution. But that’s not what you’d believe if you relied on the hysteria-grams flooding the internet. Jon H. Entine is a scholar in residence at Miami University (Ohio) and an adjunct fellow at AEI.

[FULL TEXT](#)

### **Military Force and European Strategy**

By Mary Kaldor and Andrew Salmon, *Survival*, Spring 2006

Despite modest beginnings, the European Security and Defence Policy has made significant progress in recent years. Member states have made some 60,000 troops available to the European Union under the Headline Goals agreed in Helsinki in December 2001, as well as civilian capabilities for crisis situations. At the European Council of December 2003, member states agreed a European Security Strategy as well as the establishment of a Defence Agency and a civil-military planning cell. The EU has carried out military operations in Macedonia and the Congo and is currently responsible for military forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as a number of police missions. A recent initiative has been the establishment of smaller battle groups (around

1,500 troops) for rapid deployment to areas of crisis. Mary Kaldor is Director of the Centre for the Study of Global Governance at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Andrew Salmon is a Brigadier in the Royal Marines whose career has involved numerous foreign missions in the Falklands, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Recently, he has been a special advisor to Javier Solana's Study Group on European Security.

## **A Fragile Consensus**

By Bruno Tertrais, *The National Interest*, Spring 2006

Over the past 25 years, European and American perspectives toward the Islamic Republic of Iran have sometimes converged or diverged. The European Union became Iran's largest trading partner with European trade constituting 35% of Iranian imports in 2004. European diplomats stating in 2000 that Iran was on track to becoming a democracy and that as a democracy it would give up its nuclear intentions. Here, Tertrais details what has changed since then.

## **Muslims in America - and Europe**

By Daniel Benjamin and Steven Simon, *The Globalist*, February 22, 2006

The United States and its Muslim community and Muslim communities in Europe differ significantly. In Europe, Muslims tend to be isolated, while American Muslim communities are more likely to be integrated into society, argue Daniel Benjamin and Steven Simon. They warn, however, that there are ominous signs pointing to a radicalization among Muslim youth in the United States.

Daniel Benjamin is a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic Studies in Washington, DC. He served from 1994 to 1999 on the National Security Council staff as a director for counterterrorism and prior to that, as special assistant and foreign-policy speechwriter for President Clinton. A graduate of Harvard and Oxford, he has been a foreign correspondent for *Time* and the Berlin bureau chief for *The Wall Street Journal*. Steven Simon teaches at Georgetown University, having previously been assistant director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London. He served on the National Security Council staff for five years following a career at the U.S. Department of State in Middle Eastern security affairs. He holds degrees from Columbia, Harvard, and Princeton and was an international affairs fellow at Oxford.

[FULL TEXT](#)

## **How Does Religion Affect Relations between America and Europe?**

By Stanley R. Sloan, *EuroFuture*, Winter 2005

"In recent years, trends in the United States and Europe as well as the emergence of new international terrorist threats claiming Islamic fundamentalist roots have combined to put new focus on religion as a dividing rather than a uniting factor across the Atlantic." In his article, Sloan explores these differences and offers some initial thoughts About the context in which the United States, Canada and the European democracies should deal with religion-related issues that impinge on their relationship." Stanley R. Sloan is director of the Atlantic Community Initiative and guest scholar at Middlebury College.

[FULL TEXT](#) (pdf)

## **Attitude towards the European Union**

European Trusted Brands survey, February 15, 2006

Respondents indicated their reactions to a series of 10 statements covering subjects as the euro, the inclusion of Turkey and their country's contribution to the European Union. For each they identified the extent of their agreement – or otherwise. Without exception every country felt that there was too much bureaucracy in the E.C. especially high in the U.K. and Finland where 90% of respondents agreed with this statement. In Hungary and Netherlands the difference between "too much bureaucracy" and the statement ranking No1 was less than 10 votes.

There appears to be low support for the inclusion of Turkey – especially in Austria where 90% of people disagree that "Turkey should be included in the E.U."

[FULL REPORT](#) (by country and category)

[\[back to top\]](#)

# AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT ITEMS

## Event

### [IV EU-LAC Summit](#)

Vienna, 11-13 May, 2006

Austria is proud to host the IV Summit of Heads of State and Government of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, which will take place in Vienna on 12 May.

The summit will be held under the overall theme "Strengthening the bi-regional strategic association" and will allow us to take stock of the progress achieved since the 2004 Guadalajara Summit and to decide about ways to continue strengthening our partnership.

In parallel to the Vienna Summit, Austria is also organizing the first European Union, Latin America and Caribbean Business Summit. It will convene important representatives from the business communities of the two regions, providing them with a valuable platform for discussing trade relations, investment, services and business opportunities. ...

[VIENNA SUMMIT, 12 MAY](#)

[\[back to top\]](#)

## Press Releases and Speeches

(for a complete listing of press releases and speeches please see:

<http://www.eu2006.at/en/index.html>)

### [Subsidiarity conference "Europe begins at home"](#)

April 18-19, 2006

The Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU is co-organising the European Conference on Subsidiarity 2006 with the Austrian parliament and the Bundesland Lower Austria on 18 and 19 April 2006 in St. Pölten. At this conference entitled "Europe begins at home", representatives of the EU Member States, the European Commission, the European Parliament and other EU institutions together with experts will discuss the subsidiarity principle and the proportionality principle as well as better regulation in the framework of the European Union.

[CONFERENCE DOCUMENTATION](#)

[KEY DOCUMENTS](#)

### [Plassnik: "Dialogue based on trust with all religious communities in Austria"](#)

April 13, 2006

Vienna, 8 April 2006 - At the request of Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik, the Secretary General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Hans Kyrle, met with a delegation of European and Latin American Bishops' Conferences for talks yesterday on the sidelines of a meeting of representatives of the Bishops' Conferences of both continents on the EU-Latin America Summit.

### [Presidency statement on the situation in Chad](#)

April 4, 2006

Vienna, 12 April 2006 - The Presidency of the European Union is very closely monitoring the events currently affecting the security situation in Chad.

It recalls the position of the European Union and of the African Union unambiguously condemning any attempt to seize power by violent means.

The Presidency of the European Union calls on all States in the region, and in particular the Parties to the Tripolis Agreement of 8 February, to take the necessary steps to restore calm as soon as possible. ...

### [Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the International Court of Justice](#)

April 12, 2006

Vienna, 12 April 2006 - The European Union (EU) congratulates the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on its 60th anniversary.

The EU reaffirms its strong support for the ICJ as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations and acknowledges its contributions to the peaceful settlement of numerous disputes between States. The Court has proven to be a cornerstone of the international legal order today. It has created a corpus of judicial decisions and advisory opinions of the highest quality, which has become an indispensable and reliable means for the determination of the rules of international law. ...

### **Plassnik: "Moldova – neighbour and partner in the European family"**

Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik at the EU-Moldova Cooperation Council  
April 11, 2006

Foreign Minister Plassnik chaired the meeting of the EU-Moldova Cooperation Council on Tuesday, which took place in the margins of the General Affairs and External Relations Council. "Moldova is a close neighbour and partner in the European family. We are steadily increasing our cooperation to promote the values we share."

She referred to the progress in many areas over the past year. The action plan under the European neighbourhood policy entered into force at the beginning of 2005. In addition, a European Commission Representation was opened in Chisinau and the EU border assistance mission launched on the Moldovan-Ukrainian border. Another important step had been the involvement of the EU in the talks to solve the Transnistria conflict. ...

### **International Criminal Court Cooperation and assistance agreement**

(General Affairs and External Relations Council meeting - Luxembourg, 10 April 2006)

The European Union and the International Criminal Court (ICC) will sign today an agreement on cooperation and assistance (7871/06).

This follows adoption by the Council, also today, of a decision approving the agreement.

The agreement is entered into by the EU and the ICC pursuant to the provisions of the EU Treaty and the Rome Statute establishing the ICC. The EU and the ICC will cooperate closely, as appropriate, with each other and consult each other on matters of mutual interest. In order to facilitate this obligation of cooperation and assistance, the parties agree on the establishing of appropriate regular contacts between the ICC and the EU Focal Point for the ICC. The agreement covers the terms of cooperation and assistance concerning, among other things, the following areas: attendance at meetings, exchange of information, testimony of staff of the EU and cooperation between the EU and the prosecutor.

Support for the ICC is a priority for the EU, which is committed to supporting the effective functioning of the Court and to advance universal support for it by promoting the widest possible participation in the Rome Statute<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See Common Position 2003/444/CFSP, OJ L 150, 18.6.2003, p. 67.

### **Plassnik: "No taxpayers' money to finance violence or terrorism"**

Plassnik at the General Affairs and External Relations Council in Luxembourg  
April 10, 2006

Luxembourg, 10 April 2006 - The main topics of the discussion at today's meeting of the General Affairs and External Relations Council of the European Union chaired by Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik were the latest developments in the Middle East and the situation following the elections in Belarus. The Foreign Ministers also discussed the situation in Iran and Ukraine. Another issue discussed was the external aspects of the EU sustainable development strategy, with a view to the revision and planned adoption of the revised strategy by the European Council in June 2006.

### **Council establishes planning team for rule of law mission in Kosovo**

GENERAL AFFAIRS and EXTERNAL RELATIONS Council meeting - Luxembourg,  
10 April 2006  
April 10, 2006

The Council adopted a joint action establishing an EU planning team regarding a possible EU crisis management operation in the field of rule of law and possible other areas in Kosovo (EUPK Kosovo) (7771/06).

The objective of the EUPK Kosovo is the following:

- to initiate planning, including necessary procurement processes, to ensure a smooth transition between selected tasks of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and a possible EU crisis management operation in the field of rule of law and other areas that might be identified by the Council in the context of the future status process;
- to provide technical advice as necessary in order for the EU to contribute to support and maintain the dialogue with UNMIK as regards its plans for downsizing and transferral of competencies to the local institutions.

EUPT Kosovo will be deployed gradually beginning with a core team from the end of April with the intention of having the full team in place before 1 September 2006.

The Joint Action expires on 31 December 2006.

### **Plassnik: "Dialogue among religions and cultures needs to stay rooted in reality"**

Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik at the opening of the 2nd European Conference of Imams

April 8, 2006

Vienna, 8 April 2006 - "We are not helpless spectators who have no choice but to be drawn into a battle of cultures, so to speak. It is up to us to seek ways towards living together without suspicion and scepticism, towards a future based on trust and confidence" said Minister for Foreign Affairs and President of the EU Council Ursula Plassnik on the occasion of the opening of the 2nd European Conference of Imams, which convened in Vienna on 7 and 8 April.

In her opening address, the Foreign Minister highlighted the importance attached by Austria and the Austrian EU Presidency to the dialogue among religions and cultures. "We have extended both hands in an invitation to dialogue: one hand outwards to our Islamic partners throughout the world, and the other inwards to our Muslim fellow citizens in our European societies", stated Plassnik. ...

### **Plassnik: "Prudent, persistent, collaborative work in the EU Presidency"**

Special meeting of Foreign Ministers on the future of Europe announced

April 6, 2006

Vienna, 6 April 2006 - "Many suggestions, but not one that unites the 25 Member States", said Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik, speaking on the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Parliament about the current status of discussions on the future of the constitutional process. "Discussions up to now have been tense. At the European Council, my colleagues asked me to organise an informal meeting on the future of Europe. This demonstrates a first mood swing - a small but not insignificant step", stated Plassnik and added: "In June, we will not yet be able to give an answer, but we should be clear about how we might possibly go forward." She announced that this informal meeting of Foreign Ministers on the future of Europe will be held in Austria on 27 and 28 May. ...

### **Pröll: GMO conference to initiate further discussion**

Significant recognition for those opposed to gene technology

April 6, 2006

"After two days of intensive consultations, it has become clear how many points are still open", said Environment Minister Josef Pröll at the close of the conference "Coexistence of genetically modified, conventional and organic crops – Freedom of choice" organised by the European Commission and the Ministry of the Environment <http://www.lebensministerium.at>.

The broadly based event brought together scientists, politicians, users and practitioners. "The conference has made clear that the subject must be discussed transparently in an open dialogue", the Minister declared. Limited transparency has been a big problem in the area of gene technology, which began 15 to 20 years ago. ...

### **Speech delivered to the European Parliament by Dr Wolfgang Schüssel, Federal Chancellor of Austria and President of the European Council**

April 5, 2006

Rhetoric alone is not enough for Europe. ... At the Spring Summit, we made several important institutional changes....

At the summit, we set ourselves a number of specific objectives. In the run-up, many of these objectives were very controversial, but we weren't disheartened and laid down specific objectives



with regard to jobs, growth and improving the employment situation for the 18 million people currently unemployed throughout Europe. In this regard, we want to concentrate on the national reform programmes and achieve higher employment growth of 1% per annum. This would mean an annual reduction of the jobless rate by 2 million, and create 10 million new jobs over the next five years. It is also our aim to focus our attention on young people. The aim is for 25% of young people to complete a higher-education course while reducing the number of early school leavers to 10%. ... We also decided more intensive efforts in relation to gender equality in the workplace, and dealt with the issue of “flexicurity”. The Commission’s globalisation fund was also mentioned as a sensible instrument for enabling workers who struggle with problems associated with globalisation to retrain or obtain further training. ...

### **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the arrest and bringing into custody of Charles Taylor, with alignment of third countries of 3 April 2006**

March 31, 2006

Vienna, 31 March 2006 - The European Union welcomes the arrest of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in Nigeria and his speedy transfer to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, where he is to stand trial on several counts of crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

The European Union hails the courage of Liberian President Johnson-Sirleaf in demanding Taylor’s extradition and commends the important role played by President Obasanjo and the Nigerian authorities in securing his arrest.

The European Union is pleased to see Charles Taylor finally face justice. This marks a historic event for the people of Sierra Leone and brings hope for peace and reconciliation in the region.

...

### **The Declaration of Vienna and Bad Ischl**

Declaration on the outcomes of the Youth Event hosted by the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Vienna/Bad Ischl, March 28-31, 2006

Since the year 2000, Youth policy in the European Union has gradually evolved and the engagement of young people in these processes has progressed. A number of policies has been launched in the field of youth; the Open Method of Coordination and the European Youth Pact have been developed, but the implementation is lagging behind. In the last year youth issues have been receiving progressively higher attention within the institutional agenda, but now we need to move from declarations to action....

**WEB SERVICE FOR THE INFORMAL MEETING OF YOUTH MINISTERS, March 29, 2006**

**HAUBNER ON EU YOUTH MINISTERS’ MEETING: POSITIVE OUTCOME, March 31, 2006**

### **Troika negotiations with China on climate protection**

March 30, 2006

At the last summit in September 2005, the EU and China established a high-level partnership on climate change, the first working meeting of which took place in Vienna on 30 March 2006. The EU-China partnership on climate change creates the framework for a political dialogue and sets out the substantive priorities that are to be followed up by specific projects. The partnership involves the EU-China action plan on clean coal and the plan on energy efficiency and renewables.

The EU and China are not only party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) but also to the Kyoto Protocol, and constantly endeavour to improve cooperation in this area. ...

### **Plassnik demands from Belarus immediate release of all demonstrators**

EU Presidency to discuss specific steps to promote Belarusian civil society with opposition leader Milinkevich on 3 April

March 30, 2006

Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik, President of the Council of the EU, called on the Belarusian authorities again today to release immediately all persons “who have been arrested purely because they exercised their basic democratic right to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly”. She referred to statements by the Belarusian public prosecutor, according to which approximately 500 persons have been arrested following the demonstrations in the last few days; they are now being sentenced to imprisonment in summary proceedings. ...

### **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the parliamentary elections in Ukraine**

March 29, 2006

Vienna, 29 March 2006 - The European Union takes positive note of the preliminary conclusions of the OSCE/ODIHR-led International Elections Observation Mission to the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada elections of 26 March 2006. The Mission concluded that the elections were free and fair, consolidating the democratic breakthrough in Ukraine.

The European Union welcomes these elections which stand as testimony to Ukraine's commitment to a truly democratic process. They provided the population with the opportunity to make an informed choice between distinct alternatives and to freely and fairly express their will at the ballot box.. ...

### **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the occasion of the final session of the UN Commission on Human Rights**

March 27, 2006

Vienna, 27 March 2006 - On the occasion of the final session of the Commission on Human Rights on 27 March 2006 the European Union pays tribute to 60 years of service to the cause of human rights. The European Union values the important role that the Commission on Human Rights has played in the promotion and protection of human rights. Despite the criticism the Commission has attracted in recent years, its achievements and rich legacy in the field of human rights deserve our recognition and respect.. ...

### **Presidency Statement on the use of violence against demonstrators in Belarus**

March 25, 2006

Vienna, 25 March 2006 - The EU-Presidency is appalled by the violence used against demonstrators by the Belarusian authorities. It expresses serious concern about the arrest of demonstrators and members of the democratic opposition, including presidential candidate Alexander Kozulin, and demands their immediate release.

The Presidency urges the international partners of the EU, and in particular Belarus' other neighbours, to follow the same approach towards Belarus. ...

### **Plassnik: "Freedom of religion must be respected"**

EU Presidency representations in Afghanistan for Abdul Rahman

March 23 2006

Vienna, 23 March 2006 - Foreign Minister Plassnik is monitoring closely and with great concern the court proceedings against Abdul Rahman in Kabul, who risks the death penalty for converting to another religion: "It is not acceptable that a person should be taken to court and risk the death penalty over a basic human right such as freedom of religion". The EU Presidency is monitoring the proceedings and will take further steps in the light of developments. "We will leave no stone unturned to protect the fundamental rights of Abdul Rahman and to save his life", Plassnik said.

...

### **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the presidential elections in Belarus**

March 22, 2006

Vienna, 22 March 2006 - The European Union has taken note of the preliminary conclusions of the OSCE/ODIHR International Election Observation Mission, which notably state that the Belarus Presidential elections failed to meet OSCE commitments for democratic elections.

The European Union agrees with this assessment. In particular, the Union deplores what the OSCE observers see as the arbitrary use of state power, the absence of a level playing field, the pattern of intimidation, the suppression of independent voices as well as problems with early voting, the vote count and the tabulation process. It also deplores the non-admittance of

announced and registered OSCE and EU observers, including members of the European Parliament. ...

### **Plassnik: "EU must vigorously promote comprehensive protection against discrimination"**

Foreign Minister on the 40th International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

March 21, 2006

Vienna, 21 March 2006 - "The worldwide fight against racism is far from over. Even within the EU, there is no room for complacency", warned the EU Council President and Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik on the 40th International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. "With the adoption of the two Equal Opportunities Directives in 2000, the European Union set important milestones on the path towards comprehensive protection against discrimination. Our next step must now be to give the law courts and police within the EU more effective tools with which to outlaw inhumane, racist and intolerant behaviour", stated Minister Plassnik. "In addition, the Austrian Presidency is seeking to relaunch the discussions on a Council framework decision on combating racism and xenophobia", she added. ...

## **USEFUL LINKS**

### **Government pages**

- **U.S. – EU/ U.S. Embassy website**  
[http://www.usembassy.at/en/policy/us\\_eu.htm](http://www.usembassy.at/en/policy/us_eu.htm)
- **Western Europe/ Bureau of International Information Programs**  
[http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/europe\\_eurasia/us\\_eu\\_relations.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/europe_eurasia/us_eu_relations.html)
- **Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs/ U.S. Department of State**  
<http://www.state.gov/p/eur/>  
The Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, headed by Assistant Secretary Daniel Fried, implements U.S. foreign policy in Europe and Eurasia. The Bureau promotes U.S. interests in the region on issues such as national security, NATO enlargement, coordination with the European Union and other regional organizations, support for democracy, human rights, civil society, economic prosperity, the war on terrorism, and nonproliferation.
  - **European Union** - <http://www.state.gov/p/eur/rt/eu/>
- **Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU** -  
<http://www.eu2006.at/en/index.html>
- **The United States Mission to the European Union** -  
<http://useu.usmission.gov/>
- **Delegation of the European Commission to the USA** -  
<http://www.eurunion.org/>
- **Europa – Gateway to the European Union**  
[http://europa.eu.int/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/index_en.htm)
- **Eurobarometer**  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/public\\_opinion/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/index_en.htm)

[\[back to top\]](#)

### **Selected U.S. media with EU section**

- **The Washington Post**  
International/ Europe: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/world/europe/index.html>
- **The New York Times**

International/ Europe:

<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/world/europe/index.html>

- **CNN**

Europe: <http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/europe/archive/>

[\[back to top\]](#)

### **Selected Austrian media with EU section**

- **Der Standard**

European Union: <http://derstandard.at/?url=/?ressort=EU>

- **Die Presse**

Europe: <http://www.diepresse.com/taneu/eu.htm>

- **Wiener Zeitung**

Europe:

<http://www.wienerzeitung.at/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabID=3857&Alias=wzo>

[\[back to top\]](#)

### **Additional sites**

- **EUpolitix:** <http://www.eupolitix.com/EN/>
- **EurActiv** – EU Policy News and Links: <http://www.euractiv.com/>
- **Eubusiness** – European Business News Online: <http://www.eubusiness.com/>
- **EU Reporter:** <http://www.eureporter.co.uk/>
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[\[back to top\]](#)